Serial No.: 09/808,641

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, 22, 23 and 27 have been amended herein. Claims 33 and 34 have been newly added. Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the noted allowability of claims 15-20 and 27-31. These claims will be in condition for allowance upon being amended to independent form.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 2, 7, 12, 16, 23 AND 27 UNDER 35 USC §112, 2ND ¶

Regarding claims 2, 7, 12, 16, 23 and 27, the Examiner raises a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The Examiner submits that the claims are indefinite for use of the phrases "presence/absence" and "detection/correction". In response, applicants have amended the claims to recite the phrases "presence and absence" and "detection and correction", respectively. Applicants believe this addresses any indefiniteness in the claims. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 22, 23 AND 32 UNDER 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, 22, 23 and 32 now stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) based on *Nakai et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 22 have been amended herein to recite a feature of the invention "wherein, when not in an "error correction saturated state", any unreproducible error data corresponding to the read error information is prevented from being transferred to the data conversion device". Support for such amendment may be found,

Page 11 of 14

Serial No.:   09/808,641

for example, in the present application at page 25, lines 12-15; page 29, lines 12-17;
page 32, lines 1-6; and Figs. 5A-5C).

Specifically, it is disclosed that "by using the read error occurrence address
information as read error information, *unreproducible data including an error is
prevented from being transferred to the data conversion device*." "Read error
information generated by the reading section 114 of the drive 110 is effectively utilized
for controlling data transfer such that data transfer to the decoder 138 is restricted, i.e.,
unreproducible error data is not transferred to the decoder." Id.

An advantage of the aforementioned arrangement wherein "read error
information generated by the reading section 114 of the drive 110 is effectively utilized
for controlling data transfer such that data transfer to the decoder 138 is restricted, i.e.,
unreproducible error data is not transferred to the decoder 138" is, as described in the
present application, that "a time period required for conversion in the decoder 138 can
be shortened, and as a result, *real-time data reproduction can be achieved and
maintained*". (See, e.g., Spec., p. 29, lns. 12-20; and p. 32, lns. 1-10).

Furthermore, "read error information obtained from a drive is effectively utilized,
whereby interruption of a reproduction process or disturbance in information
reproduced from data output from a data conversion device (e.g., motion picture) can
be suppressed". (See, e.g., p. 33, lns. 10-14).

Nakai et al. describes a method of reading multimedia information. Fig. 8 of
Nakai et al. illustrates the method as including at least 3 different types of error
countermeasure processing. The Examiner appears to focus on the error
countermeasure processing represented by Steps S103-S104. Specifically, when data
which is being read incurs an error, continuous read processing is carried out and an
error report is provided. As is described in column 9, line 49-55, the second error
countermeasure processing method is continuous read processing with an error report.
In this continuous read processing with an error report, all the predetermined amount of
data to be read out is transferred to the host computer section 20, and when an error
occurs in the data to be read out, the occurrence of the error is reported after having
transferred the data.

Serial No.:   09/808,641

Nakai et al. therefore teaches that in the "continuous read processing with an error report, all the predetermined amount of data to be read out is transferred to the host computer section 20, and when an error occurs in the data to be read out, the occurrence of the error is reported after having transferred the data. (See, e.g., Col. 9, lns. 50-55). Thus, Nakai et al. neither teaches nor suggests that _any unreproducible error data corresponding to the read error information is prevented from being transferred to the data conversion device_ as recited in amended claims 1, 6, 11 and 12.

As a result, withdrawal of the rejection of amended claims 1, 6, 11 and 22, and the claims dependent therefrom, is respectfully requested.

IV.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 3-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 21 AND 24-26 UNDER 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 3-5, 8-10, 13, 14, 21 and 24-26 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on Nakai et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The rejected claims each depend from one of claims 1, 6, 11 and 22, discussed above, either directly or indirectly. As a result, these dependent claims may be distinguished over the teachings of Nakai et al. for at least the same reasons. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

V.   CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1-34 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.
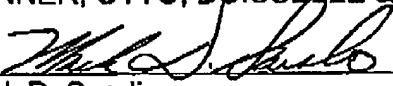
Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Serial No.:   09/808,641

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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Mark D. Saralino
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DATE: ____August 1, 2005_____

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Page 14 of 14